

## CLAIMS

1. A method (300/400/500) for controlling an external device, comprising:  
detecting initiation of one of a disconnection from said external device and a  
5 connection to said external device (310/410);  
providing a first command signal to interrupt operation of said external device  
via a data bus if said initiation of said disconnection from said external device is  
detected (330); and  
providing a second command signal to resume the operation of said external  
10 device via said data bus if said initiation of said connection to said external device is  
detected (440).
2. The method (300/400/500) of claim 1, further comprised of:  
detecting an interruption of power (510);  
15 detecting a restoration of said power (520);  
determining whether said external device is selected as an initial input  
responsive to said restoration of said power (530); and  
providing said second command signal to said external device via said data  
bus if said external device is selected as said initial input (550).  
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3. The method (300/400/500) of claim 2, wherein said data bus includes  
an IEEE-1394 bus.
4. The method (300/400/500) of claim 2, wherein said first command  
25 signal and said second command signal are AV/C protocol signals.
5. The method (300/400/500) of claim 1, wherein:  
said disconnection from said external device is detected responsive to a first  
user input; and  
30 said connection to said external device is detected responsive to a second  
user input.

6. The method (300/400/500) of claim 1, wherein said external device is a digital recording/reproduction device.

7. An apparatus (20), comprising:

5 input/output means (13) for connecting said apparatus (20) to an external device (40) via a data bus (30);

processing means (14) for detecting initiation of one of a disconnection from said external device (40) and a connection to said external device (40); and

10 wherein said input/output means (13) outputs a first command signal to interrupt operation of said external device (40) via said data bus (30) if said processing means (14) detects said initiation of said disconnection from said external device (40), and outputs a second command signal to resume the operation of said external device (40) via said data bus (30) if said processing means (14) detects said initiation of said connection to said external device (40).

15 8. The apparatus (20) of claim 7, wherein:

said processing means (14) determines whether said external device (40) is selected as an initial input of said apparatus (20) responsive to an interruption and restoration of power to said apparatus (20); and

20 said input/output means (13) outputs said second command signal to said external device (40) via said data bus (30) if said external device (40) is selected as said initial input of said apparatus (20).

9. The apparatus (20) of claim 8, wherein said data bus (30) includes an  
25 IEEE-1394 bus.

10. The apparatus (20) of claim 8, wherein said first command signal and said second command signal are AV/C protocol signals.

11. The apparatus (20) of claim 7, wherein said processing means (13) detects said initiation of said disconnection from said external device (40) responsive to a first user input to said apparatus (20), and detects said initiation of said connection to said external device (40) responsive to a second user input to said apparatus (20).

12. The apparatus (20) of claim 7, wherein said external device (40) is a digital recording/reproduction device.

13. A television signal receiver (20), comprising:  
an input/output terminal (13) operative to connect said television signal receiver (20) to an external device (40) via a data bus (30);  
a processor (14) operative to detect initiation of one of a disconnection from said external device (40) and a connection to said external device (40); and  
wherein said input/output terminal (13) outputs a first command signal to interrupt operation of said external device (40) via said data bus (30) if said processor (14) detects said initiation of said disconnection from said external device (40), and outputs a second command signal to resume the operation of said external device (40) via said data bus (30) if said processor (14) detects said initiation of said connection to said external device (40).

14. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 13, wherein:  
said processor (14) determines whether said external device (40) is selected as an initial input of said television signal receiver (20) responsive to an interruption and restoration of power to said television signal receiver (20); and  
said input/output terminal (13) outputs said second command signal to said external device (40) via said data bus (30) if said external device (40) is selected as said initial input of said television signal receiver (20).

15. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 14, wherein said data bus (30) includes an IEEE-1394 bus.

16. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 14, wherein said first command signal and said second command signal are AV/C protocol signals.

17. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 13, wherein said processor  
5 (13) detects said initiation of said disconnection from said external device (40) responsive to a first user input to said television signal receiver (20), and detects said initiation of said connection to said external device (40) responsive to a second user input to said television signal receiver (20).

10 18. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 13, wherein said external device (40) is a digital recording/reproduction device.